



Application No: GB0523078.4

Examiner: D. P. Harness

Claims searched: 1-5

Date of search: 13 December 2005

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X, Y	X:1-3, Y: 4-5	US3422902 A (BOUCHILLON) See figures, compression cups 40 & 60 and shoulder 21.
Y	4-5	US2723721 A (CORSETTE) See thimble 19.
Y	4-5	US2691418 A (CONNOLLY) See thimble 7.
Y	4-5	US2305282 A (TAYLOR ET AL) See thimble 3.

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^X:

E1F

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁰⁷

E21B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

WPI, EPODOC, PAJ, OPTICS



Your ref : P102941GB06/ASG
 Application No: GB0523078.4
 Applicant : Enventure Global Technology
 Latest date for reply: 18 April 2006

Examiner : D. P. Harness
 Tel : 01633 813502
 Date of report : 15 December 2005
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Patents Act 1977 Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Allowance of the divisional date

1. Your request that this application be treated as having been filed on 12 June 2003, which is the same date of filing as your earlier application number GB0500275.3, has been allowed. Publication of this divisional application is proceeding concurrently.

Plurality of invention

2. Your claims define a number of separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions are:

- i) A packer cup apparatus, as defined in claims 1-5 (page 33) and claims 34-38.
- ii) An apparatus for radially expanding and plastically deforming an expandable tubular member, as defined in independent claim 1 (page 34).
- iii) An apparatus for radially expanding and plastically deforming an expandable tubular member, as defined in independent claim 21.
- iv) A collapsible expansion cone assembly, as defined in independent claim 22.
- v) A collapsible expansion cone assembly, as defined in independent claim 25.
- vi) An apparatus for radially expanding and plastically deforming an expandable tubular member, as defined in independent claim 26.
- vii) A collapsible expansion cone assembly, as defined in independent claim 30.
- viii) A method of radially expanding and plastically deforming an expandable tubular member, as defined in independent claim 39

You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description.

Scope of search

3. In accordance with Section 17(6), only the first of these inventions has been searched.

Novelty



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[Examination Report contd.]

4. The invention as defined in claims 1-3 is not new because it has been disclosed in the following documents:

US3422902 A (BOUCHILLON) See figures, compression cups 40 & 60 and shoulder 21.

Inventive step

5. The invention as defined in claims 4 & 5 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following documents:

US3422902 A (BOUCHILLON) See figures, compression cups 40 & 60 and shoulder 21.

US2723721 A (CORSETTE) See thimble 19.

US2691418 A (CONNOLLY) See thimble 7.

US2305282 A (TAYLOR ET AL) See thimble 3.

US3422902 discloses a well packer cup assembly having a number of overlapping sealing cup components which would appear to mechanically analogous to the backup members defined within the claims. The shoulder 21 provides protection for the cup components. It would appear obvious to replace this protecting shoulder with the thimble devices disclosed in any one of the other documents.

What this report covers

6. There are currently two sets of claims on file, these should be renumbered to form a single set.

7. Since claim 34 is a not claim to a method, claim 40 is obscure since it refers to the "method of claim 34".

8. Your application fails to comply with Section 14(5) of the Act (see MOPP paragraph 14.140) owing to the presence of a number of independent claims of overlapping scope. The claims should be revised in accordance with the standard British format of a single independent claim for each category (e.g. apparatus and the method) followed by a series of appendant claims. †

9. The final paragraph of the description suggests that the scope of the invention is not limited by the claims. Consequently, the scope of the invention is obscured and amendment appears necessary in this respect.



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[Examination Report contd.]

10. Amendment made to the claims by way of clarification may necessitate similar revision of the corresponding paragraphs of the description.

† [This issue is covered in a *Code of Practice for patent applicants and agents* which the Patent Office published on 31 March 2004 as part of the Manual of Patent Practice. An online summary of the Code can be seen at <http://www.patent.gov.uk/patent/reference/index.htm> and I direct your attention to Code point 1 - relating to the structure of the claims filed. You can help us to work more effectively by observing the Code points.]

Conflict with corresponding GB Patent Applications

11. Care should be taken when amending the claims to clearly distinguish the claims of this application from those of the parent application GB 0500275.3, and corresponding divisional application GB0523076.8 so that conflict of claims does not occur. Claims 1(page 34)-20 of this present application are the same as claims 1-20 of the parent application GB 0500275.3 and claims 1-5 and 34-38 are the same as claims 34-38 of the corresponding divisional application, and so amendment is required in this respect.